

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his thoughtful consideration of the pending claims. In accordance with the Examiner's suggestion, Applicant has revised the title. The non-elected claims, claims 19 – 26, have been cancelled. Applicant reserves the right to continue prosecution of these claims in a divisional application. Formal drawings accompany this response.

Applicant further thanks the Examiner for his prompt response to Applicant's inquiry regarding extension of time. As the Examiner clarified, the statement on Page 2 of the Official Action dated April 22, 2003, concerning extensions of time was erroneously included. Accordingly, Applicant is entitled to extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a). A request for a one-month extension, including applicable fees, has been presented.

A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (Supplemental BB IDS) that includes a foreign search report and the five references cited therein has been filed concurrently with this response. Applicant has filed a Request for Continued Examination to ensure that the Supplemental BB IDS is considered.

In the Official Action, the Examiner indicated that he was missing the PTO 1449 Form accompanying the originally submitted Information Disclosure Statement, but had the references cited therein. Enclosed is a duplicate copy of the original Information Disclosure Statement submitted on August 23, 2001, including aforementioned form.

Applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, he is invited to contact Applicant's representative.

Respectfully submitted,



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